

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

A substitute specification and abstract is provided herewith to facilitate prosecution of the application. Additionally, a marked reproduction of the original specification and abstract, showing changes effected in the substitute specification and abstract, is submitted herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute for corresponding pending claims the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

rule 126

²⁹
~~24~~

(Amended) A wood component, comprising:

an article of wood including altered properties in geometrically defined near-surface areas as compared with an original state of the wood, said geometrically defined near-surface areas having properties of solidified wood melts substantially free from pyrolytic degradation products.

B2

³⁰
~~25~~

(Amended) A wood component according to Claim ²⁹~~24~~, wherein the geometrically defined near-surface areas include cell walls melted in one or several cutting directions so that a diffusion resistance in said geometrically defined areas

to ambient media is greater relative to that of the original state of the wood independent of the cutting direction.

Rule 12b
³¹_{26.} (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ^{29 30}~~24~~ or ~~25~~, wherein said geometrically defined near-surface areas are visually different from non-melted wood in the original state with respect to optical properties, absorptivity, reflectivity and diffusing power, and thereby, luster.

B2 Contd
³²_{27.} (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ^{29 30}~~24~~ or ~~25~~, wherein the geometrically defined near-surface areas have a higher hardness and abrasion resistance than non-melted wood in the original state.

³³_{28.} (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ^{29 30}~~24~~ or ~~25~~, wherein a deformation behavior in the geometrically defined near-surface areas is altered compared with non-melted wood in the original state.

³⁴_{29.} (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ^{29 30}~~24~~ or ~~25~~, wherein a bulk of the solidified wood melt is in a geometrically defined area of the wood component below a surface thereof.

Rule 126
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Cont'd

³⁵
~~30.~~ (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ²⁹~~24~~ or ³⁰~~25~~, wherein at least one of physical chemical properties of the geometrically defined near-surface areas is altered from the original state by substances incorporated into the solidified wood melt.

³⁶
~~31.~~ (Amended) A wood component according to Claim ³⁵~~30~~, wherein the incorporated substances are at least one of particles and pigments.
